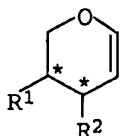


We claim:

1. A chiral compound of the general formula I

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(I)

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and diastereomers thereof, where

- 15 R^1 and R^2 , independently of one another, are
 $P-Y^1-A^1-Y^2-M-Y^3-(A^2)_m-Y^4-$ groups,

where

- 20 A^1 and A^2 are spacers having from one to 30 carbon atoms,

M is a mesogenic group,

- 25 Y^1 , Y^2 , Y^3 and Y^4 are a single chemical bond, -O-, -S-, -CO-,
 -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CO-N(R)-, -(R)N-CO-, -O-CO-O-,
 -O-CO-N(R)-, -(R)N-CO-O- or -(R)N-CO-N(R)-,

R is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl,

- 30 P is hydrogen, C_1 - C_{12} -alkyl, a group which is polymerizable
 or suitable for polymerization, or a radical which
 carries a group which is polymerizable or suitable for
 polymerization, and

- 35 m is a value of 0 or 1,

- 40 where the variables A^1 , A^2 , Y^1 , Y^2 , Y^3 , Y^4 , M , P and the index
 m in the groups R^1 and R^2 may be identical or different, with
 the proviso that, in the case where the index m is 0, at
 least one of the variables Y^3 and Y^4 adjacent to A^2 is a
 chemical bond.

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27.

2. A compound as claimed in claim 1, where the mesogenic group M conforms to the formula Ia



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where

T is a divalent saturated or unsaturated carbocyclic or heterocyclic radical,

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Y^5 is a single chemical bond, -O-, -S-, -CO-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-, -CO-N(R)-, -(R)N-CO-, -O-CO-O-, -O-CO-N(R)-, -(R)N-CO-O- or -(R)N-CO-N(R)-,

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R is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl and

r is a value of 0, 1, 2 or 3, where, for $r > 0$, both the variables T and the variables Y^5 may in each case be identical to or different from one another.

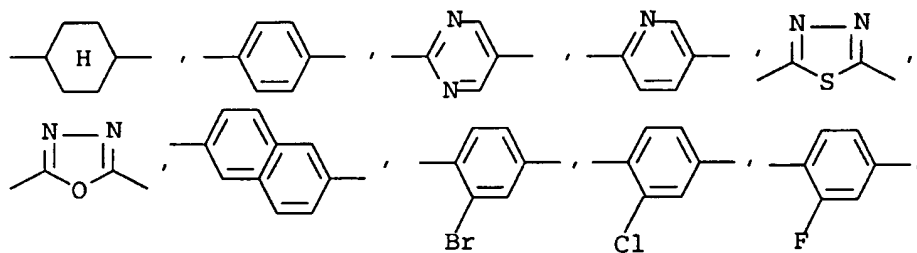
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3. A compound as claimed in claim 2, where the index r in the mesogenic group of the formula Ia in the groups R^1 and R^2 adopts, independently of one another, the value 0 or 1.

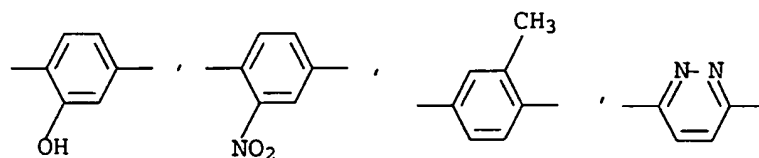
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4. A compound as claimed in claim 2 or 3, where T is selected from the group consisting of

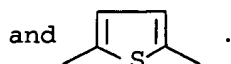
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5. A compound as claimed in one or more of claims 1 to 4, where, in the groups R^1 and R^2 , m is in each case 0, Y^3 is a single chemical bond, and Y^4 corresponds to -O-, -CO-O-, -O-CO-O- or

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-(R)N-CO-O-, where the variables Y^4 may be identical to or different from one another.

6. The use of a compound as claimed in one or more of claims 1
5 to 5 as chiral dopant for liquid-crystalline systems.
7. A liquid-crystalline composition comprising at least one
chiral compound of the general formula I as claimed in one or
more of claims 1 to 5.
- 10 8. A polymerizable liquid-crystalline composition comprising at
least one chiral compound of the general formula I as claimed
in one or more of claims 1 to 5.
- 15 9. The use of a composition as claimed in claim 7 or 8 for the
production of optical components.
10. An optical component which has been produced using a
composition as claimed in claim 7 or 8.
- 20 11. The use of a composition as claimed in claim 8 for printing
or coating substrates.
12. A printed or coated substrate which has been produced using a
25 composition as claimed in claim 8.
13. The use of a composition as claimed in claim 8 for the
preparation of dispersions and emulsions.
- 30 14. A dispersion or emulsion which has been prepared using a
composition as claimed in claim 8.
15. The use of a composition as claimed in claim 8 for the
production of films.
- 35 16. A film which has been produced using a composition as claimed
in claim 8.
17. The use of a composition as claimed in claim 8 for the
40 preparation of pigments.
18. A pigment which has been prepared using a composition as
claimed in claim 8.